

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



CHUCK CARR BROWN, PH.D.  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 19, 2018

Anne L. Idsal, Administrator  
US EPA Region 6 (6-RA)  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas Texas 75202-2733

RE: 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) designations for Ozone in the  
Baton Rouge, La. Area

Dear Administrator Idsal,

On November 8, 2017, the state of Louisiana through the Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) submitted to your office a Notice of Potential Exceptional Event for Ozone (EE) for the dates September 13-14, 2017. Accordingly, observed data for that time period was flagged and LDEQ began discussions with your office following 40 CFR 50.14(c)(2). The state is now in the process of working with a contractor, stakeholders and staff from your office on the three-tiered process of proving the exceptional event.

Subsequent to this notice, the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) on December 20, 2017 issued its notice of final designations for the revised 2015 Ozone NAAQS in Louisiana. The Baton Rouge Area was designated as Nonattainment while the remaining areas of the state were designated as Attainment/Unclassifiable. The state was given 120 days to provide additional information that it would like the EPA to consider in its final designation.

On February 6, 2018, staff members from EPA and LDEQ participated in a teleconference with Sonoma Technologies to discuss the results of the three-tier process of proving that an exceptional event did indeed take place at the Dutchtown monitor in September. While the results presented are not yet fully conclusive, Sonoma Technologies has provided enough information to show that the event was impacted by the transport of smoke from the Pacific Northwest. Based on this information, the state of Louisiana through the LDEQ is requesting that the final designation be extended for not more than one year based upon the lack of sufficient information. (§107(d)(1)(B)).

The exceptional event exercise has the potential to provide sufficient data and information to the US EPA which would change the designation of the area from Nonattainment to Attainment/Unclassifiable.

Anne Idsal  
February 19, 2018  
Page 2

Based on the contractor's current timeline, LDEQ will provide the final information on or before February 28, 2018. However LDEQ cannot provide for timely review and finalization of an exceptional event determination by your offices to ensure that the information is presented prior to the final designation deadline. Therefore LDEQ requests that an extension of not more than one year be provided by the Administrator. In the alternative, a designation of Unclassifiable would be acceptable to Louisiana until a final determination of the exceptional event can be made.

If you have any questions surrounding this request, please contact Roger Gingles, Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Assessment at [roger.gingles@la.gov](mailto:roger.gingles@la.gov) or Vivian H. Aucoin, Environmental Scientist Manger, Office of Environmental Assessment at [Vivian.aucoin@la.gov](mailto:Vivian.aucoin@la.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Carr Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.  
Secretary

c: Wren Stenger, US EPA R6  
Guy Donaldson, US EPA R6  
Carrie Paige, US EPA R6  
Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0548